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DECREES.

ARTICLE 1. *Resolved*, that all vessels, cargoes, baggages, and passengers which leave the port of this capital, for the exterior, or interior of the Republic, shall go through a thoroughly good process of disinfection.

ART. 2. *Resolved*, that the port of this capital is the exclusive point of the sanitary station.

ART. 3. Vessels coming from the Argentine will not have frank entrance without previous disinfection according to the terms of the first article.

ART. 4. The national medical board of health is in charge of the execution of this decree.

ART. 5. Be it communicated, published, and given to the Official Register.

ACEVAL.
GUILLERMO DE LOS RIOS
FABIO QUEIROLO.
FRANCISCO CAMPOS.
JOSE TOMAS LEGAL.
J. A. ESCURRA.

PORTO RICO.

Report from Ponce.

PONCE, P. R., *September 3, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the weekly quarantine and bills of health reports for the week ended September 1, 1900. Also the summary of transactions and the monthly report of inspection of immigrants for the month of August, 1900. The past month has been a very quiet one in shipping circles, and scarcely more than routine work has been done at this office. One vessel was held in quarantine, but allowed to take passengers. The enormous death rate has increased considerably during the month, nearly a hundred more deaths being reported. Many of these persons are those that flock from all over the island to this city, which has the unfortunate reputation of being very charitable. Some little effort has been made to check this influx of sick and poverty stricken, but it has availed little. By popular subscription a kind of "soup house" is being carried on, feeding about 1,200 persons daily at an expense of about \$400 weekly. This has relieved the condition of things somewhat.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Summary of transactions of service during the month of August, 1900.

PONCE, P. R., *September 3, 1900.*

Number of deaths reported during August, 1900 (a).....	681
Number of deaths reported during August, 1899 (a).....	356
Number of births reported during August, 1900 (a).....	107
Number of births reported during August, 1899 (a).....	42
Number of vessels inspected during August, 1900.....	15
Number of vessels inspected during August, 1899.....	22
Number of bills of health issued during August, 1900....	16
Number of bills of health issued during August, 1899.....	22
Number of vessels in quarantine during August, 1900.....	1
Number of passengers inspected during August, 1900, incoming.....	89
Number of passengers inspected during August, 1900, in transit.....	133
Number of crew inspected during August, 1900.....	436
Number of vaccination certificates stamped during August, 1900.....	3
Number of immigrants inspected during August, 1900.....	10
Rejections.....	0

a These figures are for the city proper, the plays, and surrounding district of Ponce.